

# MAR+INVEST

Business Development and Finance Facility of the Mesoamerican Reef

# The Mesoamerican Reef



- Includes the largest barrier reef in the Atlantic Ocean.
- Largest transboundary reef – 4 countries with over 1000 km of coastline.
- Biologically diverse, with endangered and charismatic species (manatees, whale sharks, *Acropora* sp., groupers).
- MAR reefs are “upstream” and ecologically connected to Florida, Cuba, and Bahamas.
- Cultural diversity (Q'eqchi', Mopan, Yucatec Maya, Garifuna, Miskito).
- Reef-dependent population nearly 3M.



## The Mesoamerican Reef: What's at risk

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- If the MAR continues to decline, by 2030 the per annum value of the system could fall by US\$ 3.1 Billion (tourism, fisheries, coastal development). Conversely, a shift towards healthy reefs by 2030 could unlock an additional US\$ 2.5 Billion annually across the three sectors<sup>1</sup>.
- As per the 2021 economic valuation supported by the Interamerican Development Bank, the annual value of the MAR is US\$ 4.5 Billion, integrated by reef-related tourism (US\$ 3.9 B), reef-related fisheries (US\$ 183 M), and shoreline protection (between US\$ 320 and US\$ 438 M).

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<sup>1</sup>UN Environment, ISU, ICRI and Trucost 2018. The Coral Reef Economy: The business case for investment in the protection, preservation and enhancement of coral reef health. 36pp

An aerial photograph of a tropical beach village. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, with white waves crashing onto a sandy beach. The village consists of numerous small buildings with colorful roofs (blue, green, brown) and many palm trees. Several small boats are anchored in the shallow water near the shore.

## MAR+Invest Goal

To unlock private capital for investment in reef conservation in the MAR ecoregion

# The MAR+Invest Solution

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A multi-stakeholder approach that develops and finances enterprises that generate coral positive outcomes and market returns.

A new **blended finance model** for the MAR that brings together:

Expertise in conservation, entrepreneurship, investment and evaluation of coral ecosystems, and **different types of capital** (commercial, philanthropic, development, public)

Designed to unlock private investment by overcoming the barriers that lead to the systemic lack of funding and development support for projects delivering MAR positive outcomes.

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# Outcomes

## Outcome 1

Generation of coral positive market solutions for CMPA

## Outcome 2

Livelihoods of coral reef-dependent communities are reef positive and have increased resilience to climate change

## Outcome 3

The MAR Emergency Fund<sup>3</sup> effectively responds to major shocks

# Operational Structure



MAR+INVEST

BUILD & CONNECT:  
ENABLING CONDITIONS &  
INNOVATION

FINANCING SOLUTIONS  
FACILITY

IMPACT MONITORING  
& EVALUATION

MARTAF  
(TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
FACILITY)  
CONVENING AGENT

Portfolio



# Portfolio of potential of solutions



# Portfolio of potential solutions

Project	Problem	Solution	Coral Impact
<b>King Crab restorative mariculture</b>	Lack of restorative solutions in the MAR that can address fleshy macroalgae.	HRI advancing research and development for King Crab mariculture.	Fleshy macroalgae reduction.
<b>Seaweed farming</b>	Overfishing, destructive fishing, climate change, are among the issues reducing fish populations and income for coastal communities.	Seaweed farming is a restorative solution that can represent an opportunity to decrease the pressure on reef resources	Regeneration of ecosystem functions, increase in biodiversity, reduction of thermal stress, and improved climate resilience.
<b>MAR Carbon</b>	Mangrove loss in the MAR is 34%. This affects the life cycles of commercial and coral species that need the critical interconnection between mangroves and coral reefs	MAR Carbon	Maintain and restore critical connectivity between coral and mangrove.
<b>Shrimp farming</b>	Runoff from aquaculture is impacting the interconnected ecosystems of mangrove, seagrass and corals.	Provide financing to adopt zero effluent technology	Zero aquaculture runoff in every farm that adopts the new technology.
<b>Wastewater treatment plants</b>	Non-existent and/or incomplete sewage treatment.	Explore the possibilities for the generation of a portfolio of waste water treatment plants.	Reduction of nutrient pollution and pathogens.



# Proposed operation

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## Core Structure

Impact monitoring and evaluation  
Build & Connect  
Financing Facility  
MARTAF

HRI  
FMCN  
New Ventures  
MAR Fund

## Search for initiatives

Calls for proposals

## Support to be provided

Technical Assistance  
Pipeline and portfolio development

- **Grants**
  - **Concessional - Loans**
  - **Blending - Impact incentives**
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**We are opening the call for application  
process seeking to find the best  
solution for the MAR**

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Lucy Calderón

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**THANK YOU!**

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